

10th May 2021

Dear students, parents and carers,

Centre assessed grade update - Summer 2021

Since we last updated you formally on the centre assessed grade process, schools have been provided with more guidance from the exam boards and JCQ about what needs to happen next. As students, you have been working incredibly hard since your return from lockdown in March; your tenacity, resilience and positivity has been amazing to see. I hope that you have felt supported; we have tried to shield you from the stresses of this process as best we can, but do appreciate that you must feel like you are on a very slow treadmill of assessments week after week at present.

As parents and carers, I am sure you are concerned about the robustness of the processes we have in place and what we are doing to ensure fairness, objectivity and a holistic approach to the awarding of grades (for example, rather than relying on one assessment that might have gone 'wrong' or not be representative of best work). I want to reassure you that we are working very closely with our curriculum leaders to ensure that everything we are doing is subject to a strict internal quality assurance system. Ultimately, we are all working to ensure the right grade is awarded to each student fairly and that this decision is based on plenty of evidence. I know it is a stressful and difficult time regarding conversations about grades, but staff are unable to discuss what is being awarded, as per JCQ guidance.

JCQ have recently produced a guide for students and parents about the process this summer, which you can find [here](#). We have also created a new summer 2021 page on our website where you can access all of our policies and associated documents: <https://longbenton.org.uk/grades2021>. We will keep adding to this as we come up to the final grade submission deadline in June. A reminder that the revised dates for results days are as follows:

- ★ Tuesday 10th August: A Levels and Level 3 courses
- ★ Thursday 12th August: GCSEs (please note: formal enrolment to our 6th form will be on the same day)

Leaving dates for Year 11 and Year 13

This year the Department for Education stated that: "this year the needs of the cohort will be different and a period of independent study leave may not be applicable...Schools should make appropriate judgements on the activities for their own pupils." So, for most students this would mean a formal leaving date of Friday 28th May.



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However, most students will be coming to a point soon where they will have completed all of their formal assessments prior to this date. As a result the following will apply over the rest of this half term:

- For Year 11, **the last date where they will all be expected to attend the school site** (apart from small numbers of students in a few options subjects who still have assessments scheduled for the week beginning 24th May) **will be Friday 21st May.**
- From Monday 24th May to Friday 28th May, Year 11 students will be working remotely either on 6th form transition reading and research and/or skills based online courses of their own choosing:
<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/find-a-course/the-skills-toolkit> Additional careers and skills based work will be posted on Google Classroom.
- **For Year 13**, they can **stop attending lessons for subjects when all of their assessments in that subject are complete.** This means the final day in school will differ from student to student.

NE12 6th Form Transition Day - Tuesday 8th June 9am-1pm

We are hosting a Sixth Form transition morning for all students who have expressed an interest in returning to the NE12 Sixth Form in September. **All Year 11 students who are returning must attend the event.** The purpose of the event is to familiarise students with the expectations when joining the Sixth Form, as well as accessing some A level/BTEC level 3 bridging work for their potential chosen subjects. The work will be started on this day, to be completed by students before September. It will give students a chance to sample specific subject content and start to prepare them for the demands of courses in Sixth Form. Teachers will be available to help them with this.

In addition there will be an extended assembly where they will receive specific guidance and a careers workshop (using an interactive web-based tool called Unifrog that is used throughout Sixth Form) to help with apprenticeships and university pathways. During the morning there will also be the opportunity for those students travelling to GSHS for lessons to use the free bus service, have a tour of their facilities and meet key staff. This is something we would normally do in September; by holding this event now, we will hopefully answer questions students may have about routines and arrangements. Students will not be expected to wear school uniform on this date.

We hope that this will be a helpful and supportive event for students entering Sixth Form and something they will find informative and valuable. Further details will be given on the day but we ask that all students arrive at school, ready to start in the hall, at 9am. If you any further questions about the induction event or wider questions about the Sixth form please e-mail Mr Williams, Head of Sixth Form, at iw@longbenton.org.uk



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Y11 Prom - 2nd July

We will be holding a Year 11 Prom here in school on Friday 2nd July, subject to government guidance regarding the coronavirus restrictions. Further details will be sent out soon.

In the meantime, if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either Mr Williams, Ms Maughan (Year 11 Year Leader) or your child's form tutor.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Holbrook".

Kelly Holbrook

Headteacher